

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cadaveric Study: An Honour and a Privilege

Ian Scagnetti*

To the Editor of the IJCSAV,

With the auspicious beginning of this new journal, it is important to recognize and celebrate the continued examination of human anatomy and the wild variation that occurs in each of us.

In anatomy laboratories across the world, we are privileged to learn from the incredibly generous members of our communities who choose to donate their bodies for education and research. There truly is no better way to garner appreciation for anatomical relationships than to wander through the anatomy laboratory and witness the subtle changes or great variations that may appear in each of us. Seeing those anatomical differences first-hand creates a curiosity and understanding in the students that cannot be recreated with textbooks and images alone. These students will then carry that curiosity and understanding with them as they become our future medical doctors, researchers, clinicians, or perhaps educators themselves.

Beyond contributing to the education of anatomy students, donating one's body for cadaveric research contributes to bettering the ways in which we appreciate and understand the structures and relationships that exist within us. The more we, as an academic and medical community, can learn and share about the variations that occur in our

bodies, the more precisely we will know how to fix and fine-tune the human "machine".

Less obvious perhaps, is the benefit our anatomy programs offer to the members of our community that choose to donate their bodies after death. Perhaps the biggest benefit that donation to anatomical science offers to potential body donors is simply having an alternative option for what happens to their physical self after they pass. Death is something we all must face and is a challenge that each of us face differently. Making the choice to donate one's body for education and research after death may offer comfort to some as they feel they are able to contribute to the world when they are no longer with us. As anatomists, it is our responsibility to honor the gift of body donation by putting forth the best educational opportunities that we can, and to explore the human body through tireless research to more fully understand the bodies in which we all reside. After all, the choice to donate one's body may be one of the biggest decisions of a person's life, and we are the people to whom these body donors entrust with that choice.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of anatomists to honor and appreciate the gift of body donation by exploring every avenue in anatomical research and education available to us. Luckily for us, that responsibility is also a great privilege.

Human Anatomy Laboratory Technician and Outreach Program Coordinator, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Rd E, N1G 2W1, Canada

**Corresponding author: Ian Scagnetti, Human Anatomy Laboratory Technician and Outreach Program Coordinator, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Rd E, N1G 2W1, Canada, Tel: 519 216-4069; E-mail: iscagnet@uoguelph.ca*

Received: March 30, 2021, Accepted: March 30, 2021, Published: March 31, 2021



This open-access article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (CC BY-NC) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits reuse, distribution and reproduction of the article, provided that the original work is properly cited and the reuse is restricted to noncommercial purposes.